

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14651

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV BQG
SUBJECT: FRENCH CONCERNS OVER FRG ACTIONS ON BERLIN

REFS: (A) PARIS 25732; (B) PARIS 25691; (C) USBER 2295

1. WE WOULD NOT SUGGEST THAT THE US ATTEMPT
UNILATERALLY TO ALLAY FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT GERMAN
ACTIONS CONCERNING BERLIN. FOR THE RECORD, HOWEVER, WE
OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE MOST RECENT
EXAMPLES CITED BY THE FRENCH (REFS A AND B) AS
ILLUSTRATIVE OF FRG "ASSERTIVENESS" ON BERLIN ISSUES:

-- FRENCH-GERMAN YOUTH EXCHANGE MEETING TO BE HELD
IN BERLIN. DE LABOULAYE'S COMMENT TO AMBASSADOR HARTMAN
IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF THIS PARTICULAR MEETING,
AND WE THUS DO NOTKNOW THE
FACTS. OFF HAND, WE WOULD SUPPOSE THAT HOLDING THE
MEETING IN BERLIN MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE
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FACT THAT BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE IS THE GERMAN
PLENIPOTENTIARY ON THE FRANCO-GERMAN BILATERAL CULTURAL
COMMISSION, AS WAS HIS PREDECESSOR, MAYOR SCHUETZ,
BEFORE HIM. ASIDE FROM THAT, THE MEETING AS DESCRIBED,
INVOLVING AS IT APPARENTLY DOES VISITORS ONLY FROM THE
WEST-- AND FROM ONE OF THE THREE ALLIED POWERS AT THAT --
SOUNDS PRECISELY LIKE THE SORT OF MEETING THE ALLIES

WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE BERLIN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER. WE WILL, HOWEVER, TRY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT FROM THE FRENCH BONN GROUP REP TO SEE PRECISELY WHY DE LABOULAYE IS CONCERNED.

-- MEETING OF THE MINISTER-PRESIDENTS OF THE LAENDER. AS EXPLAINED IN REF (C), THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD IN BERLIN BECAUSE, UNDER THE SYSTEM OF ANNUAL ROTATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MINISTER-PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE, IT IS AGAIN BERLIN'S TURN, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ELEVEN YEARS. WE AGREE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE LIKELY TO PROTEST, BUT WE WOULD FIND IT HARD TO AGREE WITH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FRENCH CONCERN -- I.E., THAT BERLIN SHOULD CEASE ITS COOPERATION WITH THE LAENDER OF THE FRG IN SUCH MATTERS. WE HAVE, ON THE OTHER HAND, INITIATED STEPS IN THE BONN GROUP TO ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE. HAVING IN MIND THE UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER IN THE LAST MEETING OF LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS IN BERLIN, THE US REP ASKED LAST WEEK IN THE BONN GROUP FOR INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER ANY FEDERAL MINISTERS WOULD BE ATTENDING THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, IF SO, IT WOULD NOT BE MADE TO APPEAR PUBLICLY THAT THEY WERE PERFORMING OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. THE FRG REP HAS UNDERTAKEN TO SEEK INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE CHANCELLERY.

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2. AS FOR THE MEETING OF THE EC MONETARY COMMITTEE, THE FRENCH STILL HAVE NOT VOICED THEIR OBJECTIONS IN THE BONN GROUP. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY RAISED THE MATTER WITHIN EC CIRCLES. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, A BELGIAN EMBOFF RECENTLY TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH, AFTER EXPRESSING OBJECTIONS AND THREATENING TO BOYCOTT THE COMMITTEE MEETING, ULTIMATELY LIFTED THEIR OBJECTIONS AND ACQUIESCED IN THE HOLDING OF THE MEETING IN BERLIN.

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